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Robert Q. Williams

South Carolina House of Representatives

Post Office Box 11867

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811

Room 228 Blatt Building

Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director

Charles L. Appleby IV
Legal Counsel

Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator

Carmen J. McCutcheon
Auditor/Research Analyst

Healthcare Subcommittee

April 27, 2016

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Healthcare Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chairman Nathan Ballentine on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, in Room 108 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Subcommittee were present: Chairman Ballentine, Representative Walton J. McLeod, and Representative Bill Taylor. Representative Taylor offered an opening prayer.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.

- II. Representative Taylor moved to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s previous meeting on March 17, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion was passed.

Rep. Taylor’s motion to approve the minutes from March 17, 2016:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Mia McLeod			✓
Rep. Walton McLeod	✓		
Rep. Bill Taylor	✓		
Rep. Nathan Ballentine	✓		

Discussion of the Department of Health and Environmental Control

- I. Chairman Ballentine administered the oath to Catherine Heigel, Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- II. Committee staff provided an overview of the oversight process as it related to DHEC, and highlighted that the meeting was the Subcommittee’s first meeting with DHEC.
- III. Chairman Ballentine stated that the meeting’s purpose was for the Subcommittee to ensure that DHEC has a clear understanding of the oversight process and to ensure that the agency will share information about the process and notify its employees of the Committee’s public survey.
- IV. Director Heigel provided an overview of DHEC to the Subcommittee.

Representative Taylor asked if Director Heigel had conducted an agency-wide survey of DHEC employees at all levels in order to benchmark employee attitudes for comparison with future surveys. Director Heigel testified that she had not conducted that sort of survey when she was first installed as Director, but that DHEC had conducted a similar survey since that time.

Representative Taylor asked if the similar survey had been conducted internally or externally. Director Heigel testified that the survey was conducted internally under the supervision of an external consulting firm.

Representative W. McLeod urged Director Heigel to act without hesitation in public health crises by using all of the powers delegated to DHEC by the state. He also noted the necessity of DHEC’s communicable diseases program, citing the importance of the germ theory.

Representative Taylor asked for the expected date on which the results of a DHEC study of the water aquifer would be available to the public. Director Heigel said that she would have DHEC staff provide that information to the Subcommittee after the conclusion of the meeting.

- V. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.